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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,875	12/31/2003	Yan Zhou	75622P006501	6308
22503	7590	09/27/2005	EXAMINER	
DAVIS & ASSOCIATES P.O. BOX 1093 DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX 78620			SINGH, RAMNANDAN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2646	

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/749,875

Applicant(s)

ZHOU, YAN

Examiner

Ramnandan Singh

Art Unit

2646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date, _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 1-3, 4A and 4B should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only those which are old are illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee [US 6,944,213 B2].

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claim 1, Lee teaches an integrated subscriber line interface circuit apparatus (transceiver) shown in Fig. 2, comprising:

an integrated circuit coupling at least one of an upstream and a downstream voice path for carrying voice signals to a subscriber line (290),

wherein the integrated circuit couples at least one of an upstream and a downstream data path for carrying data signals to the subscriber line [Figs. 1-4; col. 5, line 46 to col. 6, line 3; col. 8, lines 44-58; col. 10, lines 41-53; col. 10, line 40-58];
, wherein the voice signals are communicated within a first frequency range (i.e. voiceband), wherein the data signals are communicated within a second frequency range (i.e. non-voiceband), wherein the first and second frequency ranges are distinct [Fig. 2] .

Regarding claim 2, Lee further the apparatus, wherein the integrated circuit further comprises:

a driver (380) for driving a downstream voice signal onto the subscriber line

(290) [Figs. 2-3].

Regarding claim 4, Lee further teaches the apparatus, wherein the integrated circuit further comprises: a driver for driving a downstream data signal onto the subscriber line the apparatus (290) [Figs. 2-3].

Regarding claims 5-9, the limitations are shown above.

Regarding claim 10, Lee further teaches the apparatus, wherein the first frequency range (i.e. voiceband range) has an upper bound of approximately 4 kHz [Fig. 1]. However, it is well-known in the art.

4. Claims 1-2, 4-10, 11-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hjartarson et al [US 6,295,343 B1].

Regarding claim 1, Hjartarson et al teach an integrated subscriber line interface circuit apparatus (transceiver) shown in Fig. 4, comprising:

a driver (416) combining a downstream voice signal in a first frequency range (i.e. voiceband range) and a downstream data signal in a second frequency range (i.e. a non-voiceband range) into a common downstream signal for a subscriber line (404) [Figs. 5-6; col. 5, line 45 to col. 6, line 16]; and

receiver circuitry comprised of a feed resistor (418) coupled to provide an

upstream data signal and an upstream voice signal from an upstream signal carried by the subscriber line [Figs. 6-9; col. 6, lines 17-24];

wherein the driver and receiver circuitry reside on a same integrated circuit (i.e. integrated line card 400) [Fig. 4; col.5, lines 31-44; col. 7, lines 36-55].

Regarding claims 2, 4-8, the limitations are shown above.

Regarding claim 9, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus, wherein the integrated circuit further comprises:

driver circuitry (416) for driving at least one of a downstream voice signal and a downstream data signal onto the subscriber line [Fig/ 6]; and

receiver circuitry comprised of a feed resistor (418) for receiving at least one of an upstream voice signal and an upstream data signal from the subscriber line [Figs. 4-6; col.5, lines 31-44; col. 7, lines 36-55].

Regarding claim 10, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus, wherein the voiceband range has an upper bound of 4 kHz [Fig. 1a]. However, it is well-known in the art.

Regarding claim 11, Hjartarson et al teach a subscriber line transceiver apparatus shown in Fig. 8, comprising:

a first receiver circuit [Fig. 8; elements 514 and 610] for extracting upstream voice signals carried by a subscriber line, wherein the first receiver circuit substantially eliminates any signals outside of a first frequency range associated with voiceband communications to provide the upstream voice signals; and

a second receiver circuit [Fig. 8; elements 514 and 612] for extracting upstream data signals from the subscriber line, wherein the second receiver circuit substantially eliminates any signals outside of a second frequency range associated with data communications to provide the upstream data signals, wherein the first and second receiver circuits reside on a same integrated circuit die (i.e. integrated line card 600) [Fig. 8; col. 7, lines 10-29].

Regarding claim 12, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus, wherein the first receiver circuit further comprises a first driver [Fig. 8; element shown but not labeled] for driving the upstream voice signals ; and wherein the second receiver circuit further comprises a second driver [Fig. 8; element shown but not labeled) for driving the upstream data signals.

Regarding claim 13, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus: wherein the first receiver circuit further comprises a first pass filter coupled to (i.e. embedded within) the first driver, wherein the first filter substantially excludes any signals outside of the first frequency range; and wherein the second receiver circuit further comprises a second pass filter coupled to (i.e. embedded within) the second driver, wherein the

second filter substantially excludes any signals outside of the second frequency range [Fig. 8].

Regarding claim 14, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus wherein the first filter is inherently a low pass filter to output low frequency signals to POTS (406) [Fig. 8].

Regarding claim 15, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus wherein the second filter is inherently a high pass filter to pass data signals to DSL (408) [Fig. 8].

Regarding claim 16, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus: wherein the first receiver circuit further comprises a first hybrid filter (i.e. anti-aliasing filter 514) coupled to the first driver, wherein the first hybrid and first driver co-operate to eliminate downstream voiceband signals; and wherein the second receiver circuit further comprises a second hybrid filter (i.e. anti-aliasing filter 514) coupled to the second driver, wherein the second hybrid and second driver co-operate to eliminate downstream data signals [Figs. 7-8; col. 6, lines 66-67].

Regarding claim 17, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus: wherein the first receiver circuit further comprises:

a first driver for driving the upstream voice signals [Fig. 8];

a first hybrid filter (i.e. anti-aliasing filter 514) for eliminating downstream voice signals from the received subscriber line signals;

a first pass filter (i.e. low pass filter embedded within the first driver, Fig. 8) for eliminating any signals outside of the first frequency range, (i.e. voiceband) wherein the first driver, first hybrid filter, and first pass filter co-operate to provide the upstream voice signals from the subscriber line to the exclusion of any other signals carried by the subscriber line;

wherein the second receiver circuit further comprises: a second driver for driving the upstream data signals; a second hybrid filter (514) for eliminating downstream data signals from the received subscriber line signals; and a second pass filter (i.e. high pass filter) for eliminating any signals outside of the second frequency range, wherein the second driver, second hybrid filter, and second pass filter co-operate to provide the upstream data signals from the subscriber line to the exclusion of any other signals carried by the subscriber line [Figs. 7-8; col. 6, line 60 to col.7, line 29].

Regarding claim 18, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus wherein an upper bound of the first frequency range is approximately 4 kHz [Fig. 1a].

Regarding claim 19, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus wherein a lower bound of the second frequency range is approximately 25 kHz [Fig. 1a].

Regarding claim 20, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus wherein the

upstream voiceband signal at 406 is an unmodulated signal [Fig. 8] .

Regarding claim 21, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus wherein the upstream data signal is a modulated signal at 408 [Fig. 8].

Regarding claim 22, Hjartarson et al further teach the apparatus wherein the upstream data signal uses a discrete multi-tone (DMT) modulation line code [col. 1, lines 38-56].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hjartarson et al [US 6,295,343 B1] in view of Zhou et al [US 5,452,345].

Regarding claim 3, Hjartarson et al do not teach explicitly providing a driver for driving a metering signal to the subscriber line.

Zhou et al teach using a metering signal generator to provide a metering signal to the downstream path and upstream path [col. 2, lines 45-68]. It may , however, be noted

Zhou et al teach using a metering signal generator to provide a metering signal to the downstream path and upstream path [col. 2, lines 45-68]. It may , however, be noted that this is a teaching to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the same to other applications.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Zhou et al with Hjartarson et al in order to provide a metering signal to continuously notify a customer of telephone charges, etc. [Zhou et al; col. 1, lines 12-16].

7. Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hjartarson et al as applied to claim 21 above.

Regarding claims 23-25, although Hjartarson et al teach the apparatus wherein upstream data signal uses a discrete multi-tone (DMT) modulation line code [col. 1, lines 38-56], it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art , at the time the invention was made, to use other modulation techniques such as a carrierless amplitude and phase (CAP) modulation line code, a two binary 1 quaternary (2B1Q) line code, and a quadrature amplitude and phase modulation (QAM) line code for comparison of the results with that of the DMT modulation line code to determine impulse noise effects.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Seazholtz et al [US 6,424,636 B1] teach applying various modulation techniques including a discrete multi-tone (DMT) modulation line code, a carrierless amplitude and phase (CAP) modulation line code, a two binary 1 quaternary (2B1Q) line code, and a quadrature amplitude and phase modulation (QAM) line code [col. 9, lines 24-29].

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramnandan Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7529. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ramnandan Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2646



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER